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For Immediate Release  
October 30, 2003

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## **Senate introduces legislation package to assist recovery of manufacturing and tool & die industries**

**Lansing** – Members of the Michigan Senate introduced a package of bills today aimed at helping the manufacturing and tool & die industry recover, Sen. Michael Bishop (R-Rochester) announced.

“It’s time to stop the falling fortunes of Michigan businesses, particularly tool and die companies,” Bishop said. “This package gives these companies, which employ thousands of Michigan residents across the state, a fighting chance against foreign competitors with an unfair advantage.”

Michigan accounts for nearly one-quarter of all jobs lost in the nation recently.

The Republicans’ nine-point JOBS plan, “Job Opportunities for Business Success,” would help create manufacturing jobs, spur new small businesses and provide incentives to expand the state’s slow-moving economy. Party leaders in the House and Senate announced the initiative this week.

Being home to the Big 3 Automakers, Michigan has naturally been a place for manufacturing and tool and die businesses to set up shop. Because of competition from foreign countries such as China, where the industry is subsidized by the government, manufacturing industries have been at a substantial disadvantage.

The eight-bill package would:

- Establish Tool & Die Recovery Zones to provide tax relief similar to the successful Renaissance Zone program, allowing a tax reduction to help keep in the industry competitive while providing incentives for businesses to collaborate for efficiency.

- Create a new exemption in the Personal Property Tax Act, allowing the equipment required by tool & die manufacturers to be exempt from the personal property tax. This will allow for increased competitiveness and additional job opportunities.
- Increase the apprentice training credit in the Single Business Tax (SBT). A better trained workforce will entice employers to locate in Michigan, leading to more job opportunities.
- Alter the state tax code by providing depreciation tables that mirror federal tables for the tool & die industry.
- Change the Use Tax Act to remove penalties on fabricated steel such as that used for girders in buildings. By removing this tax, Michigan's fabricators become more competitive with other states, leading to additional job opportunities.
- Establish a credit in the SBT for businesses or corporations for paying up front for services from tool & die cooperatives.
- Amend the Michigan Broadband Development Authority Act by offering grants to qualified tool and die businesses. Capitalizing on technological advances will help businesses compete in the global market and create more job opportunities.
- Allow skilled trades to present information at college and career nights at high schools. Being able to attract a young, well-educated workforce interested in manufacturing careers will appeal to companies looking to relocate to Michigan.

The package also contains three resolutions to Congress encouraging them to develop economic incentives and other programs to aid in the recovery and stabilization of the manufacturing industry.

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